



# The Beautiful VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK

Biscayne Park, Florida 33161

Spring 2009 Newsletter



## Fruition Finally!

At times it seems like government takes forever to get anything done, if they even get anything done at all. But I believe Biscayne Park is an exception to that rule, even though things have taken longer than we would have liked...

**There are several Major Projects that will break ground or be completed this year!**

The new "entry" sign near the corner of 6th Avenue and 113th Street will be breaking ground shortly; if it hasn't already by the time you read this. It is a beautiful design that

exemplifies the unique spirit and character of Biscayne Park. I believe most residents will be happy and proud to see this long-standing issue resolved in an attractive and appropriate manner.

Our Public Works Department will get a sorely needed new home. A new PW facility (to be located in the same, current location) that is designed to look like a home in Biscayne Park has finally found funding and will commence this year. To say that this is long overdue is an understatement but we will finally have a facility that is fitting for our fine PW employees.

A new shade pavilion, designed to fit-in and match the architecture of the Recreation Center, will begin construction soon. As anyone who has watched or waited for their kids at the playground knows, this is badly needed as well. It will be a great improvement that will have many uses.

You should know that these projects did not "drag on" because of any fault of the

staff or Commission of Biscayne Park. These things took time because of funding/grant issues or waiting on other groups or agencies out of our control. It is very gratifying to see such items come to fruition and others, too. The 25mph speed limit and sidewalk around the Park come to mind. There are also other items that are "on-the-shelf" that we are continuing to pursue and work to implement.

On another note, sadly, as most of you know, we have had to cut some of the programs at Recreation. I do feel that in the long run our recreation programs will emerge better and more fitting than ever before. Please attend the Recreation Advisory Board meetings to give your input as to the direction of these programs.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any of your concerns or questions.

Warm regards,  
**John Hornbuckle, Mayor**



## WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

If you want to darken your day, it seems that all you have to do is pick up a newspaper or turn on the television. The recession, banking crisis, housing foreclosures and resultant slump in home sales and job layoffs... the list of bad news goes on and on. It is enough to keep most of us in a perpetual state of despair, fearing that sooner or later the forces of this economic downturn will affect us permanently, if it hasn't already.

What will the economic future bring? I wish I knew, but I don't. What I do know is now is not the time to lose hope for the future or allow negativity to overwhelm us. In the words of Abraham Lincoln, "this too shall pass." At least that is how I try to cope on a day-to-day basis. I know that I am one of the lucky ones. I still have my house and job, but it is not hard to empathize with those who are less fortunate. Hopefully, in the not so distant future, I will feel more comfortable in dedicating this space to a more mundane issue having to do with Biscayne Park government, but now is not the time. Believe me, our community will be fine. The Commission is focused on operating in a resourceful and prudent manner in order to deal with our financial challenges.

Please try to stay positive. After all, we are Americans. We have overcome worse, which I guess is why President Lincoln made his ensuring remarks in the first place.

### Commissioner Kelly Mallette

Please note the **new** hours of operation for our Recreation Center:  
 Monday - Friday: 10:00AM to 6:00PM  
 Saturday & Sunday: 12:Noon to 6:00PM  
 Extended summer hours will be in effect soon!



## THANK YOU!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many residents of our Village who volunteer countless (unpaid) hours to help our community be a better place to live. Without our many volunteer boards and committees such as Planning and Zoning, Parks & Parkways, Code Enforcement, Recreation Advisory, and Code Review, our Village could not function. Whether researching ways to simplify and improve our existing codes or helping residents through the permitting process for their home improvements or guiding our Recreation Center toward a better future, we owe all these neighbors a great big THANKS!

And on that note....now that tough economics have forced us to cut our Recreation staff we are more in need of volunteers than ever.....

The Annual EASTER EGG HUNT is coming up on Saturday morning April 11. This annual event has always been extremely popular and a very important and fun occasion for our entire community - something kids of all ages look forward to. We used to rely primarily on the Recreation Center staff to do all the work before, during and after. We don't have that staff anymore so if this event is going to be the success it always was we need help with set up the day of the event, monitoring the areas where the kids hunt for eggs and clean up after. Please contact me if you can spare some time to make this a special day for our kids.

In conclusion - THANKS to everyone who makes our unique Village such a great place to live.

**Commissioner Bob Anderson**  
 banderson@biscayneparkfl.gov

PS We have openings on a couple of our boards. Serving on them is a great way to interact with other Village residents to make our present (and future) all we want it to be. Please email me if you are interested in learning more.



## I see the Train a'Comin'

Did you know that one day in the future there will likely be a mass transit train system in Dade County that extends to our vicinity, and it is possible a neighborhood station might be located close to our Eastern Entry to Biscayne Park? Have you been paying attention to the North Miami utility issues that resulted in an increase to your water bill? How about the conditions and policies of surrounding communities, and state and federal governments that our quality of life depends on?

All of these things affect us, and we all need to be aware and proactive. So many good things that have come about in the last few years happened because of residents who stepped up and sounded an alarm, or led the charge to make and keep things better. Your elected officials will listen, even if it takes some encouragement to take on tough issues.

Mini-Chamber of Commerce- On March 21st we will have our first ever Community Event of Residents who have Home Business Licenses. It is a FREE event, and if you want to participate with a table for whatever your Home Business might be, all you need is to apply for a \$50 license at Village Hall. We'll have snacks and drinks, and a visit from North Shore Medical Center so you can have your cholesterol, glucose and blood pressure checked. FREE! We will also have an organization there that can teach you how to create a business plan and apply for micro loans for your home business. In harsh economic times, we all need to do what we can to help our neighbors, and this event will inform you of local businesses right here in the Village. I hope everyone comes and takes advantage of our small government's ability to directly help its residents.

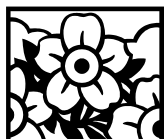
I'm pleased to report that we now have

250 households involved in Crime Watch! The more eyes we have, the safer we are. To join, please email [BiscaynePark\\_Crimewatch@yahoo.com](mailto:BiscaynePark_Crimewatch@yahoo.com)

We now have an emergency system called WENS, which will allow our Police Chief to contact you directly in case of an emergency - you can sign up for cell phone text messages and/or email notification. By signing up, you'll also be able to get notification any time the county is on alert, or from any city that uses the system. The goal is to communicate to as many people as possible during any public safety emergency. I hope everyone signs up, the link is on our Website.

And finally, if you have never seen such magic as the image of Saturn and its rings, or the moon and its craters through a HUGE telescope, please send me a message and I'll be sure to notify you when our Star Gazing Evenings in the Park occur. Sincerely,

**Commissioner Steve Bernard**  
[Steve@SteveBernardArchitect.com](mailto:Steve@SteveBernardArchitect.com)



## ...and the word is - **FINALLY!**

Finally we will be getting the new entrance sign, a pavilion at the Recreation Center, and a new Public Works building. I'm sure that you know that I have been a proponent of a new Public Works building for years. It has been a disgrace what the men who work for us have had to endure. This building will fulfill all their needs and will blend in with the surrounding neighborhood. The entire cost of the Public Works Building will be paid for by the money we received from the County General Obligation Bond. All of the Commissioners need to be congratulated for seeing the need for these structures.

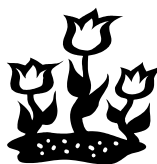
Summer isn't that far away and we are working with the Recreation Advisory Board to see if we can have some type

of program for the children. It was very hard for me, as well as the other Commissioners, to cut the Recreation programs. I am sure you are aware of our tight budget constraints. I hope members of the community will go to the Recreation Advisory Board meetings and voice any ideas that you may have. If you are unable to attend the meetings and you have an idea let me know.

The police department under Chief Mitch Glansberg's direction has been much improved. I have been impressed with the cars patrolling our neighborhoods. We are a small Village so let's look after our neighbors, especially older and any physically disabled. We have signed up many homeowners with Crime Watch. If any residents want to be involved call the Chief. The more eyes we have looking after our Village the better. You can always call me and I will get you the information.

I hope all of you have a very happy and healthy summer. Again, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing me to serve in the capacity of your Commissioner. Sincerely,

**Commissioner Chester "Doc" Morris**



## **NEW PROJECTS BEGIN**

Within the next two weeks three major projects will begin construction: the new Public Works Administration Building to replace a dilapidated trailer, thanks to a \$356,000 allocation from the County's General Obligation Bond Issue; a \$50,000 Recreation Pavilion to provide shade for our children after Hurricane Wilma destroyed most of the large shade trees, funded mostly by a \$25,000 grant from the County's Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond Issue and a \$13,500 donation from the North Shore Medical Foundation; and, a new large Village Entry Sign that has been in the

planning stage for years.

## **NEW CITIZEN BOARDS PRODUCTIVE**

The newly created five-month-old Recreation Advisory Board (RAB) and the Parks and Parkways Advisory Board (P&PKY BD) have been very busy pursuing programs and projects that benefit the Village. Like developing and implementing a master plan for planting over 120 trees in the medians partially funded by an \$11,100 grant from the State's Urban Forestry Program. The RAB has been busy rebuilding recreation programs offered to our residents that are self-supporting and not a burden nor dependent on a General Fund subsidy. Thanks go to your fellow citizens who are devoting many hours of their time to make Biscayne Park a better more beautiful place to live.

**Frank Spence, Village Manager**



## **Are you a victim of identity theft, forgery or fraud?**

If someone has stolen or is fraudulently using credit cards that are issued to you, you will need to take these immediate steps.

1. Notify the credit card company or financial institution that issued your card immediately.
2. Make an immediate police report for the loss or theft of the credit card(s) with the law enforcement agency holding jurisdiction where the loss/theft occurred and obtain a case number. If the credit card was lost or stolen and it has been used fraudulently, a crime has occurred.

### **Identity Theft**

When your personal identification information (name, social security number, driver license number, etc.) has been used fraudulently to open credit accounts, bank accounts, obtain loans, utilities, telephone services, etc., without your knowledge or permission,



you are the victim of a crime. If you believe that your identity has been stolen, you should take the following steps:

1. Immediately contact the company or financial institution's fraud department where your information was used and alert them of this fraudulent account. Have the account closed or canceled.
2. File an immediate police report with the law enforcement agency holding jurisdiction where the identity theft occurred and obtain a case number. The location of jurisdiction is where the account(s) were opened or services provided.
3. Contact the three credit reporting companies listed below to report this identity theft complaint. You will need to confirm that a fraud alert is placed on your personal credit file. This alert should help prevent any future acts of fraud involving your personal identification information. Where a credit check would be conducted with the three credit bureaus. Make a prompt police report with the law enforcement agency holding jurisdiction where the theft occurred and obtain a case number.

#### **Checks Forged (Stolen) On Your Account**

If you discover in your monthly bank statements that someone has stolen check(s) and has cashed them by forging your signature, immediately notify your bank or credit union. Make a police report. You are considered a victim of the theft of checks only. Provide your bank or credit union with the original forged checks, complete and sign forgery affidavits for each forged check. Your bank or credit union will normally take the financial loss and should credit your account. Once this is done, they become the victim of the uttering of a forgery. A victim of uttering of a forgery is ultimately determined by whoever suffers the money loss. Even though your signature has been forged, you will be considered only as a witness in this case. If the bank or credit union determines that you were negligent and does not credit your account, then you will become the victim of uttering of a forgery.

#### **Recipient of Forged Checks (Stolen or Counterfeit)**

If you discover that unauthorized checks (stolen or counterfeit) have been cashed or deposited to your account, take the

original forged checks to your bank or credit union. You will be required to complete and sign fraud / forgery affidavits for each check. Your bank or credit union will investigate to determine exactly how and when these stolen or counterfeit checks entered your account. They will then do one of the following:

1. Accept the financial loss and make an uttering of a forgery report with the law enforcement agency holding jurisdiction of where the check(s) were uttered / presented for payment; or
2. Notify the merchant, bank, etc. from where the check was initially received, return the check(s) in question and request repayment for their loss. The merchant or bank will have to make the uttering of a forgery complaint report with the law enforcement agency holding jurisdiction where the check was presented.

If you are the victim of any of these crimes, contact the three credit reporting companies listed below. Request that a fraud alert be placed on your personal credit file.

1. EXPERIAN [www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)
2. EQUIFAX [www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)
3. TRANS UNION [www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)

**Mitch Glansberg, Police Chief**

#### **Contact information for YOUR Village:**



Village Hall (305) 899 8000  
Public Works (305) 893 4346  
Recreation (305) 893 3711



Manager: [villagemanager@biscayneparkfl.gov](mailto:villagemanager@biscayneparkfl.gov)  
Clerk: [villageclerk@biscayneparkfl.gov](mailto:villageclerk@biscayneparkfl.gov)  
Bldg Dept: [bdclerk@biscayneparkfl.gov](mailto:bdclerk@biscayneparkfl.gov)  
Police: [policechief@biscayneparkfl.gov](mailto:policechief@biscayneparkfl.gov)  
Code Enf: [sramos@biscayneparkfl.gov](mailto:sramos@biscayneparkfl.gov)  
Public Wrks: [publicworks@biscayneparkfl.gov](mailto:publicworks@biscayneparkfl.gov)

#### **Police Contacts**



Crime, Medical, Fire or  
other Emergency:

**911**

Office: **(305) 893 7490**  
(Non Emergency)

Non-emergency dispatch, via  
Dade County: **(305) 595 6263**

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